

July 12, 2010

Two Suffolk men face gun trafficking indictments

Two Suffolk County men are charged with illegally trafficking in guns, some of them purchased in Florida and re-sold on Long Island, following a ten-month investigation by the Suffolk County District Attorney's office in cooperation with the Sheriff's office of Hernando County, Florida.

District Attorney Thomas Spota and First District Representative Timothy Bishop announced the arrests at a press conference in Hauppauge today. Congressman Bishop last year secured \$245,000 of federal funds to expand and enhance the efforts of the Gun Suppression Team and is currently working on securing a \$200,000 appropriation for anti-gun trafficking enforcement efforts for fiscal 2011.

"We again saw over the weekend the consequences of cheap and easy access to guns – a 16 year old girl shot in the leg during a party in Huntington Station," District Attorney Thomas Spota said. "And last week a man was shot to death in front of his home on Fox Wood Drive in Huntington Station, and the next day, July 6, two men were shot on East Third Street in that community."

"These defendants', Carlos, Romel and Santos Garcia, are charged with engaging in a multi-jurisdictional conspiracy to traffic in illegal weapons", DA Spota said.

The trio were involved in the purchase and resale of 13 handguns, one of them recovered from under Carlos Garcia's pillow in his Central Islip bedroom where detectives found a five-shot derringer under his pillow during the execution of a search warrant. Carlos Garcia, 47, is charged with first degree criminal sale of a firearm for the unlawful sale of ten or more firearms in one year. First degree criminal sale of a firearm is a class B violent felony punishable by up to 25 years in prison. Garcia also faces drug charges for selling more than three ounces of cocaine. A member of the MS-13 street gang living in Garcia's house was arrested for violating his parole.

Santos Garcia (no relation), 39, of Huntington Station is charged with third degree criminal sale of a firearm for illegally selling up to five guns over the past ten months.

A third man named in the indictment, Romel Garcia, 43, (Carlos Garcia's brother), of Spring Hill, Florida, is in custody in Hernando County in Florida. Romel Garcia is charged in Florida with possession of a stolen gun, possession of a defaced weapon, grand theft and aggravated assault of a police officer. The latter charge results from Garcia's charging members of the Hernando County SWAT Team with a samurai sword as the officers were executing a search warrant at his residence. "I'd like to thank the Hernando County Sheriff's office for their assistance over the past ten months in this investigation," Spota said.

Among the weapons recovered during the investigation; a RG .25 cal semi automatic, a Glock 357 semiautomatic, a Beemiller 9 mm semi automatic, a Remington Arms bolt action rifle, a Jimenez Arms .25 cal semi automatic, a Taurus 9mm semi automatic Cobra Enterprises .380, a Charter Arms .38 revolver, and a Glock .40 caliber.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
THOMAS J. SPOTA**

FLA. TO L.I. GUN RUN



CARLOS GARCIA



SANTOS GARCIA



ROMEL GARCIA



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Every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and federal law.